

## Preface

# DICKSON TEACHER'S BIBLE COMMENTARY

The initial project of the *Dickson Teacher's Bible Commentary* began in the early 1980s. At that time, only a New Testament edition was envisioned, and subsequently, published in 1987. In the years that followed, I was encouraged by Bible students around the world to add an Old Testament commentary to the mission. Because of the need and encouragement from others, I wrote the Old Testament commentary after the nature of the content of the New Testament commentary.

The comments of both the Old and New Testaments, with the inclusion of the *International King James Version*, was eventually completed, and subsequently published as one volume in 2010. From that year, several editions in different formats have been published and distributed around the world as either printed copies, e-books on the Internet, or as part of the *Biblical Research Library DVD*. This particular 2023 edition is the first published volume to feature only the commentary material, without the inclusion of the text of the *International King James Version*. The recipient of this edition, therefore, must keep in mind that all the quoted references in the text of the commentary are taken from this version of the Bible, though research from other versions of the Bible text is encouraged when using this commentary as a study aid.

This edition of the *Dickson Teacher's Bible Commentary* in one volume is the latest format for the publication and distribution of the commentary material of the original *Dickson Teacher's Bible*. In this edition, I have sought to bring to Bible students around the world my thoughts on the text of the Bible, as well as the topical studies of the *Encyclopedic Bible Study Guide*. It is my prayer that this material will encourage and enhance the studies of thousands of dedicated Bible students who have a limited access to Bible study aids. The recipients of this volume should keep in mind that herein are included my personal studies that took place over a period of fifty years, and have been condensed for this volume for the purpose of a greater worldwide audience.

Unique also to this volume is the inclusion of the unabridged edition of the *Encyclopedic Bible Study Guide*, portions of which were first published in 1972. The expanded edition of this publication has been added to this volume in order to make this particular volume the best possible aid for Bible preachers and teachers, and especially to facilitate the volume as a textbook for Bible schools. It has also been added in order to provide Bible study material that one would normally receive in a formal Bible educational institution, or from other books that are not commonly available to Bible students around the world. Realizing that most recipients of this volume will never have the opportunity to attend a formal Bible educational institution, or have access to other study aids that are beneficial for Bible study, I have sought in this single volume to bring to Bible students the core of studies that one would receive in studies in a formal educational institution. Because there is a vast audience of people who will never have access to those Bible research books that enhance one's understanding of the Bible, the *Encyclopedic Bible Study Guide* has been added in order to give a brief review and study of those Bible subjects that encourage one's appreciation for the Bible, as well as, aid one in preaching and teaching important Bible subjects.

The distribution of the *Dickson Teacher's Bible Commentary* has been a mission project from its inception. Those who have supported the project throughout the development of this volume have dedicated themselves to send a commentary of the entire biblical text, plus Bible study aids, to faithful teachers of the word of God who often live in isolated areas of the world. These faithful servants of God are often working alone in their efforts to maintain the faith through dedicated preaching and teaching of the word of God. By maintaining the publication as a mission effort throughout the years, the result has been that over one million copies of the original *Dickson Teacher's Bible*, either in part or in whole, have been distributed worldwide at the time of the initial publication of the 2023 edition.

This volume is my effort to join the worldwide group of dedicated Bible teachers who seek to follow the mandate of Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2: "*The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*" We thus join together as dedicated Bible teachers who seek to teach the word of God

to every individual of this world. In a world that is often confused concerning the simplicity of the gospel, which is the theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, I have sought to bring to honest Bible students a study aid that would both enhance and direct Bible studies in the midst of so many confused religious beliefs in this present world. Because of the influence of those who have sought to twist the Scriptures according to their own agendas, I have sought through the distribution of this volume to present a Bible road map for the thinking of those who are sincere Bible students. It is my prayer, therefore, that the brief commentary statements of this volume, as well as the included *Encyclopedic Bible Study Guide*, will aid Bible students to sort through the host of confusing religious teachings that are propagated throughout the religious world.

Because few commentaries of the Bible are distributed to the developing world, I have committed myself to make this volume available to as many people as possible. Though this goal continues to be accomplished through the printed edition of the commentary, the greater circulation of the material has been accomplished in the e-book edition that can be easily downloaded free from my website.

Because printed editions of books are often beyond the financial abilities of those who live in economically depressed areas, I have from the beginning of the project retained the commitment that the *Dickson Teacher's Bible Commentary* should be a mission project for the edification of the disciples of Christ. For this reason, the rights to publish this volume have been secured in a way that this publication should not come under the control of any one individual or publisher, who might in some way hinder the printing and distribution of the volume by any other individual or group who would also seek to make the volume available to a wider audience. This volume was produced because of the sacrifices of those who desire to distribute a commentary of the entire Bible to as many people as possible. As long as there are financial means, therefore, the *Dickson Teacher's Bible Commentary* will continue to be produced and distributed to as many people as possible, either in printed editions, or through the free distribution of the e-book edition on the website.

As the author of the content of both the *Teacher's Bible Commentary* and the *Encyclopedic Bible Study Guide*, it is my desire to encourage others to like-

wise make this volume available to as many people as possible through every available means. Those who seek to print for themselves this volume in partnership with other worldwide distributors, have the opportunity to support financially themselves the cost of both printing and distribution. In this way there will be a host of publishers in several countries who work in partnership with one another in order to make this volume available in the years to come.

If there are those who would seek to print only individual books of this volume, or make translations of portions of the contents, they have the right to do so in order to bring the contents of what I have written to a greater audience.

Therefore, the policy of publication, distribution or translation does not restrict anyone from publishing this volume as a financial venture in order to pay for the cost of printing and distribution in their particular country. Others have the right to print and distribute the volume, such as bookstores or publishing houses. Permission is granted to these institutions to print and sell the *Dickson Teacher's Bible Commentary* in order to make the volume available to a greater audience of people, though no one publisher is allowed to claim the sole rights of printing, selling or distribution.

It has always been my desire that the *Dickson Teacher's Bible Commentary*, as well as the *Encyclopedic Bible Study Guide*, never be used as the final authority in matters of opinion or Bible interpretation. Those matters of truth that are fundamental to salvation need no interpretation, for matters of salvation come to us from God through declarative statements or imperative commands of His word.

The purpose for the distribution of this volume is to provide basic concepts upon which Bible believers can grow in their personal knowledge of the word of God. By presenting to Bible students key concepts, it is expected that those who love the word of God will be inspired to grow to a more rewarding understanding of all Bible subjects.

There is no final authority in matters of faith other than the Bible. When using this volume in teaching, therefore, I would urge teachers

that they use the material herein included simply as another resource that will enhance Bible study, while remembering that the individual Bible student must use the Bible alone as the final source upon which one's faith is built. This volume is only one effort to encourage faithful teachers to grow in a greater knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel He introduced into this world.

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